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**MARKET HARBOROUGH
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**



Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1953

R. W. KIND, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

Market Harborough Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	45,166
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1953) ...	3,146
Number of Council Houses	503
Ratable Value, 1st April, 1953	£44,132
Sum represented by a penny rate	£174 13 5

POPULATION :—

1953 Registrar General's estimate ...	10,010
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TABLE showing the Registrar General's estimate of the changes in population during the past ten years :—

1944 .. 9,497	1949 .. 9,900
1945 .. 9,110	1950 .. 9,660
1946 .. 8,809	1951 .. 9,915
1947 .. 9,311	1952 .. 9,970
1948 .. 9,810	1953 .. 10,010

BIRTHS :—

		1952	1953
<i>Live Births :—</i> Legitimate	Male	94	72
	Female	72	73
	Total	166	145
Illegitimate	Male	Nil	5
	Female	5	4
	Total	5	9
<i>Total Live Births :—</i>	Male	94	77
	Female	77	77
	Total	171	154
<i>Stillbirths :—</i> Legitimate	Male	1	Nil
	Female	3	1
	Total	4	1
Illegitimate	Male	Nil	Nil
	Female	Nil	Nil
	Total	Nil	Nil
<i>Total Stillbirths :—</i>	Male	1	Nil
	Female	3	1
	Total	4	1

Birthrate per 1,000 estimate population :—

	1952	1953
Market Harborough Rural District ...	17.1	15.3
England and Wales	15.3	15.5

Illegitimate birthrate per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough Rural District ...	25.0	58.4
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Stillbirths :—Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 22.8 6.4

Stillbirths rate per 1,000 estimated population :—

Market Harborough Rural District ...	0.4	0.09
England and Wales	0.35	0.35

TABLE showing the changes in the total live births and in the birth rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Live Births	Birth Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Mkt. Harboro' Rural District	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	181	17.6	21.1	17.6
1945	134	15.4	18.8	16.1
1946	172	19.5	20.6	19.1
1947	193	20.1	21.2	20.5
1948	165	17.1	18.84	17.9
1949	188	18.9	17.35	16.7
1950	176	18.2	16.17	15.8
1951	160	16.1	16.02	15.5
1952	171	17.1	15.67	15.3
1953	154	15.3	15.43	15.5

DEATHS :—

	1952	1953
<i>Total Number of Deaths :—</i> Male	47	52
Female	49	39
Total	96	91

Death rate per 1,000 estimated population :—

Market Harborough Rural District ...	9.6	9.0
England and Wales	11.3	11.4

TABLE showing changes in the total number of deaths and in the death rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Deaths	Death Rates (per 1,000 population)		
		Mkt. Harboro' Rural District	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	107	11.7	11.2	11.6
1945	134	15.4	11.1	11.4
1946	87	9.9	10.7	11.5
1947	113	12.1	11.3	12.0
1948	101	10.2	9.77	10.8
1949	116	11.7	10.68	11.7
1950	123	12.5	10.28	11.6
1951	110	11.0	10.74	12.5
1952	96	9.6	10.06	11.3
1953	91	9.0	10.05	11.4

			1952	1953
<i>Deaths from puerperal causes :—</i>				
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	Nil	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	Nil	Nil

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

No. of deaths :—		Legitimate	Male	...	Nil	2
			Female	...	1	2
			Total	...	1	4
		Illegitimate	Male	...	Nil	1
			Female	...	Nil	Nil
			Total	...	Nil	1
		Total Infant deaths			1	5

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births :—

Market Harborough Rural District	...	5.8	32.4
England and Wales	...	27.6	26.8.

TABLE showing deaths of infants under one year and infant mortality rates during the past ten years :—

Year	Total Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality Rates (per 1,000 live births)		
		Mkt. Harboro' Rural District	Leicester- shire	England and Wales
1944	3	16.6	37	46
1945	5	37.3	36	46
1946	3	17.4	36	43
1947	5	25.9	43	41
1948	1	6.0	32.2	34
1949	2	10.6	27.1	32
1950	4	22.7	27.0	29.8
1951	5	31.2	25.1	29.6
1952	1	5.8	26.5	27.6
1953	5	32.4	28.0	26.8

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

			1952	1953
<i>No. of deaths :—</i> Legitimate	Male	...	Nil	2
	Female	...	1	1
	Total	...	1	3
Illegitimate	Male	...	Nil	1
	Female	...	Nil	Nil
	Total	...	Nil	1
Total deaths of infants under 4 weeks				
of age	...	...	1	4

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Registrar General's Classification :—

	1952			1953		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory ...	2	—	2	2	1	3
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic disease ...	—	—	—	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
8. Measles ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	2	2	4	—	2	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	—	1	1	1	—	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	—	2	2	—	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
14. Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other ...	3	3	6	4	5	9
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
16. Diabetes ...	—	1	1	—	—	—
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	4	3	7	8	2	10
18. Coronary disease, angina ...	7	2	9	7	4	11
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	2	5	3	—	3
20. Other heart diseases ...	8	14	22	9	5	12
21. Other circulatory disease ...	6	1	7	1	1	2
22. Influenza ...	—	—	—	—	3	3
23. Pneumonia ...	2	1	3	3	2	5
24. Bronchitis ...	3	4	7	5	2	7
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system ...	—	—	—	1	1	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	1	1	—	—	—
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
28. Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1	2	—	—	—
29. Hyperphasia of the prostate ...	1	—	1	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations ...	—	1	1	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	—	7	7	5	8	13
33. Motor vehicle accidents ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
34. All other accidents ...	3	—	3	1	—	1
35. Suicide ...	2	—	2	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total deaths, all causes ...	47	49	96	52	39	91

CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

1953 was ushered in by the development of the expected measles epidemic which resulted in many more cases of this disease than in previous years. The distribution of these cases of measles and a summary of other cases of notifiable infectious disease are shown in the tables which follow.

IMMUNISATION.

Facilities for immunisation continue to be provided free of charge under the National Health Service Act, 1946. 92 children received their primary immunisation whilst a further 62 were treated to maintain their immunity.

INFECTIVE HEPATITIS.

An epidemic of infective hepatitis was observed during the months of October and November in Lubenham. The illness was diagnosed with certainty in 19 children attending the Lubenham Primary School and was suspected in a further 10. The cases were confined to members of one class at the School together with a few of their intimate contacts in other classes. No particular defect of hygiene or sanitation were found which could have been considered to have facilitated the spread of this infection.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS.

Seven cases of poliomyelitis were notified during the months of July and August. The first and two subsequent cases occurring in Fleckney. Investigation of the families and close contacts of these cases suggested that at least a further three members of one family had suffered an attack of non-paralytic poliomyelitis during which they had not considered it necessary to consult their Doctor.

Four other notifications came from different Parishes but enquiry showed that the children were all members of one class at a central school. Investigation brought to light four further children in this class together with two older children and one adult who are considered to have suffered an attack of non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

In each of these localities the spread of the disease from case to case could be demonstrated and serves to emphasize the need to treat with greater caution the person suffering from a febrile illness associated with sore throat, headache and vomiting, and commonly accompanied by stiffness of the neck and pains in the muscles of the back, neck or limbs. Such persons might be non-paralytic cases of poliomyelitis and their vomit and faeces highly infectious. Each of the outbreaks in the year under review contains an example of a non-paralytic case vomiting in school with the subsequent development of the disease by adjacent classmates. The judicious use of relative isolation of family and other intimate contacts seems to offer a means of control of spread of this disease.

TUBERCULOSIS.

There were three deaths from this disease during the year.

The new cases are shown in the following table :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	1	3	4
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	1	1
	—	—	—
Totals	1	4	5
	—	—	—

The total number of cases known to be resident within the District at the close of the year is shown in the following table :—

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	19	30	49
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	11	8	19
	—	—	—
Totals	30	38	68
	—	—	—

TABLE showing the notification of infectious diseases analysed by sex and age groupings :

Age Groups	Whooping Cough		Measles		Scarlet Fever		Pneumonia		Acute Encephalitis		Acute Poliomyelitis	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	—	—	13	20	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 years	—	1	27	18	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
5-9 years	4	1	49	46	2	2	—	—	—	—	5	1
10-14 years	1	—	4	6	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
25-44 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
65 years or over	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	5	2	93	91	4	2	6	1	2	—	6	1

Parish	1952				1953					
	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May
Foxton ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Glooston ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gumley ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Hallaton ..	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	-	-	-
Horninghold ..	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Husbands Bosworth ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	4	33	1
Kibworths ..	-	-	-	-	-	10	11	3	-	-
Langtons, East ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	4	-	-
Langton, Thorpe ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Langton, Tur ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Langton, West ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Laughton ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-
Lubenham ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-
Lubenham Camp ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	38	-	-
Medbourne ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	11	2	-
Saddington ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Shangton ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Slawston ..	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Theddingworth ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Welham ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	-
Totals ..	1	-	-	3	1	18	58	69	37	2

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

For the following information I am indebted to Mr. R. W. Turner, Senior Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

Mains water is piped internally to 2,005 houses to supply a population of 6,268. A further 113 houses with a population of 330 receive mains water from external standpipes. This water continues to be satisfactory in quality although occasionally inadequate in quantity in Saddington.

1,085 houses with 3,032 persons living therein continue to rely upon wells for their water. 95 samples of water were taken for examination during the year and of these 27 were satisfactory.

Well supplies have been more reliable during this year and the only important shortage was confined to the Council houses at Great Easton where a covered tank was installed and kept filled by transporting water to it from nearby mains.

Improvements in water supply have resulted from arrangements to draw from a private source at Welham, whilst at Cranoe the fitting of an electric pump to the public well and so keeping a storage tank full has eliminated shortages.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

With the completion of the new outfall works at Kibworth and at Saddington and with good progress being made on the scheme for East Langton all parishes having a mains water supply will be adequately sewered. Provisional schemes for the remaining parishes are held up by the delay in arranging water supplies.

There are 217 cesspools in the District, a further 10 having been constructed during the year. Emptying takes place every three months.

2,738 houses have water closets whilst 58 pail closets and 163 privies provide for the remainder.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House refuse is removed at approximately fortnightly intervals by direct labour. Trade wastes are removed from premises producing these whenever requested and charges made in accordance with time taken and the distance to the nearest tip.

Four crude tips are in use at Kibworth, Foxton, Husbands Bosworth and Hallaton.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total number of complaints received during the year	131
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Total number of defects or nuisances discovered	179
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Total number of inspections made :—

	Inspections
Dairies	182
Drainage Works	1,371
Dwelling Houses	1,016
Food Premises	155
Rodent Control	1,116
Refuse Collection and Disposal	206
Schools	6
Shops	60
Slaughterhouse and Meat Inspection	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	21
Verminous Premises	2
Water Supplies	1,680
Workshops and Out-workers	21
Other Inspections	194
Total Inspections	6,030

Notices served during the year.

Preliminary :—

	Housing	Public Health
Outstanding on January 1st, 1953	3	3
Issued during the year	34	111
Complied with during the year	32	100
Statutory action necessary	—	—
Outstanding on December 31st, 1953	5	14

HOUSING.

1. *New Houses* :—

Number of applications for Council Houses at the end of the year	366
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Programme of new Council Houses :—

Completed during the year	32
Under construction at end of year	64

Number of houses erected during the year by private enterprise	11
Number of houses in course of construction at the end of the year by private enterprise ...	12
Total number of post-war houses completed by :—	
(a) Local Authority	304
(b) Private Enterprise	43
2. <i>Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :—</i>	
(a) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	260
Number of inspections made for the purpose	486
(b) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human inhabitation	6
(c) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those in previous sub-headings) found to be not in all respects fit for human inhabitation	230
3. <i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice :</i>	
Number of Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	14
4. <i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—</i>	
(a) <i>Under Sections 9, 10, 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—</i>	
(i) Notices served in respect of Dwelling Houses requiring repairs	Nil
(ii) Dwelling Houses rendered fit by owners	Nil
(b) <i>Under Public Health Acts :—</i>	
(i) Notices served in respect of Dwelling Houses requiring defects to be remedied	Nil
(ii) Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied by the owners	Nil
5. <i>Housing Act, 1936, Part IV, Overcrowding :—</i>	
The extent of overcrowding continues to remain unknown,	

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

ICE CREAM.

Seventeen premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, which in all cases is pre-packed material supplied by reputable manufacturers. There are no premises registered for manufacture.

Milk : Dairies and Distributors.

(i) *Dairies* :—

Number on Register	...	...	...	...	3
Number of inspections made		...	...		24
Number of contraventions found		...	...		Nil

(ii) *Distributors :—*

Number on Register ...	...	...	...	5
Number of inspections made	...	...	...	31
Number of contraventions found	...	...	...	Nil

Milk, (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk)

Regulations, 1949 :—

Licences issued :—

1	Dealers, Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
	Sterilised	...	...	...	Nil
2	Supplementary, Pasteurised	...	...	...	1
	Sterilised	...	...	...	Nil

Milk, (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 :—

Licences issued :—

1	Dealers, Tuberculin Tested	...	...	3
2	Supplementary Tuberculin Tested	...	...	1

MILK SAMPLING.

The quarterly sampling of raw milk sold within the District was continued. 25 such routine samples were taken of which 3 were shown to be infected with *Brucella abortus* and 1 with tubercle bacilli. These latter herds were dealt with by the issue of stop Notices which were not removed until the sources of infection had been dealt with. In the three herds found to be infected with *Brucella abortus* a further 39 individual milk samples were taken. Two of the producer-retailers concerned in these cases have since ceased to retail milk.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

No slaughterhouses are in operation in the District. Such pigs as are slaughtered by cottagers are examined on request.

During the year a total of 131 lbs. of tinned foods was condemned as unfit.

Number of Inspections :—

Meat Shops and Stores	...	...	...	...	65
Places where food other than meat is kept or prepared for sale	...	...	...	...	150

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948.

Premises.	No. on Register	Inspections made
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	15	48
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is to be enforced by Local Authority	52	97
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	11	29
Total :	78	174

Outwork (Section 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	No of Workers on List.
Wearing apparel—Making, etc.	55

THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

Section 47 of this Act empowers a Local Authority on the recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health to apply to the Courts for an order for the removal to hospital or other appropriate institution of persons found to be suffering from grave chronic disease, being aged or infirm or physically incapacitated and living under insanitary conditions, and not receiving from other persons proper care and attention.

The procedure for administering this section has been greatly simplified by the coming into force of National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951, which makes possible immediate action by a Medical Officer of Health to safeguard the welfare of the aged.

It was not found necessary to exercise powers under these Acts as the six elderly persons coming to notice were persuaded to enter hospital voluntarily.

